

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 02577 220735Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /078 W

-----220738 126373 /17

R 220640Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6213

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2577

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: ALLEGED "MY LAI" TYPE INCIDENT ON BASILAN

1. DURING CALL AT EMBASSY FEB. 17 NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT HENRY KAMM ASKED IF WE HAD INFORMATION REGARDING WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "MY LAI" TYPE INCIDENT WHICH ALLEGEDLY TOOK PLACE AT BARRIO SIMUD (PHONETIC), BASILAN ISLAND, ON JAN. 16 (BEFORE CURRENT CEASEFIRE). ACCORDING KAMM'S INFORMANT (A CATHOLIC PRIEST IN ZAMBOANGA) INCIDENT BEGAN WITH REBEL AMBUSH OF PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY (PC) PATROL IN WHICH SIX GOVERNMENT MEN AND 4-5 REBELS (KILLED). TWO DAYS LATER PC MOUNTED PURSUIT AND (THEY SAY) TOOK FIRE FROM MUSLIM VILLAGE, WHEREUPON THEY FIRED BACK, KILLING 30-40 VILLAGERS, MOSTLY NON-REBELS AND INCLUDING MANY WOMEN AND CHILDREN. HOWEVER MUSLIM SOURCES TOLD PRIEST THAT PC PURSUIT FORCE NOT FIRED ON BUT BEGAN SHOOTING WHEN THEY SAW A WEAPON IN A MUSLIM HOUSE, AND THAT APPROXIMATELY 70 VILLAGERS KILLED.

2. ALL-SOURCE SURVEY INDICATED EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION CONFIRMING ALLEGED INCIDENT AND WE SO INFORMED KAMM ON OFF-RECORD BASIS. IT SOUNDS SIMILAR IN NATURE TO DEC. 23-25 INCIDENT AT AMAS, NORTH COTABATO (SEE PRINGLE-ROGERS MEMCON OF JAN. 15) WHICH KAMM ALSO KNEW ABOUT.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 02577 220735Z

ALTHOUGH THIS TYPE OF CLASH HAS OCCURRED MANY TIMES IN PAST, KILLING OF SUCH MAGNITUDE NORMALLY STIRS WIDESPREAD REACTION (AS AMAS AFFAIR DID) AND WE ARE THEREFORE INCLINED TO CONCLUDE THAT AT VERY LEAST CASUALTY FIGURES CITED BY KAMM SOURCE ARE EXAGGERATED. RESUMES OF KAMM STORIES CONTAINED IN EA PRESS SUMMARIES TO DATE HAVE NOT MENTIONED BASILAN EPISODE SO ASSUME HE MAY ALSO HAVE

CONCLUDED IT EXAGGERATED OR FICTITIOUS.
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA02577
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770060-0994
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770221/aaaaasyd.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a2f260c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3266234
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED "MY LAI" TYPE INCIDENT ON BASILAN
TAGS: PINS, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a2f260c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009